News release

Met Office appoint new Chief Scientist

2 October 2002

Following an open competition, the Met Office announced today that John Mitchell will be its new Chief Scientist. He is expected to take up the appointment in December following Paul Mason's retirement later this year.

John, a world-renowned expert on climate change, and currently Head of Modelling Climate Change at the Hadley Centre has worked for the Met Office for 29 years. In this new role he will be responsible for the Met Office's multi-million pound research programme, ensuring that it contributes to the future success of the Met Office and its customers.

He beat an international field of some of the world's most able meteorological and environmental scientists. The appointment was recommended by a panel including some of the country's top scientists - Sir Keith O'Nions, the MoD's Chief Scientific Adviser, David King, the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, and Brian Hoskins of the University of Reading.

Speaking on the day the appointment was announced the Met Office's Chief Executive Peter Ewins said: "I am delighted for John and for the Met Office. His appointment will ensure we maintain the high quality of our research for which we are known the world over."
Receiving the confirmation of his appointment John Mitchell said: "I am thrilled to be chosen for what I see as one of the most prestigious scientific posts in the country. The quality of our science is key to maintaining the Met Office's reputation as an internationally acclaimed research institution, a provider of Europe's best weather forecasts and the world leader in climate prediction. Our scientific excellence and innovation allow us to work closely with our customers to provide solutions to the weather and climate challenges they face on a daily basis."

Notes:
A picture of John Mitchell is available.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

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